

FAFSA Challenge Buddy List

The Governor's Office and Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) highly encourage high schools to partner with an outside organization, such as a community-based organization with experience supporting students pursue postsecondary education, an institution of higher education, or another organization, as a means of augmenting a school's capacity and expertise in helping students complete the FAFSA.

The design, responsibilities, and meeting cadence of the partnership is completely up to the school and partner organizations to decide, but example activities may include:

- Develop trainings/tools for school counselors who may be unfamiliar with the FAFSA;
- Hold FAFSA nights at high school or at organization site;
- Host virtual guidance sessions with seniors and their families on FAFSA completion;
- Supplement schools with additional incentives for students who complete the FAFSA.

Below is a list of community-based organizations and institutions of higher education that are eager and willing to collaborate with high schools for the duration of the FAFSA Challenge. High schools are encouraged to identify and reach out to a community-based organization or institution of higher education on this list prior to the application deadline. Please note that inclusion of these organizations does not constitute an endorsement of or approval by the Governor's Office or the State Department of Education.

| Organization | Contact Name | Contact Email | Community(ies) Served |
|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Albertus Magnus College | Michelle Cochran | mcochran@albertus.edu | New Haven |
| Central Connecticut State University | Gladys Colon | colon_gla@ccsu.edu | New Britain |
| Connecticut State Community College (all campuses) | Tamika Davis | tdavis@commnet.edu | Statewide |
| CONNTAC- Educational Opportunity Center | Cecilia Nugent | cnugent@conntacinc.org | Statewide |
| Eastern Connecticut State University | Chris Dorsey | dorseyc@easternct.edu | Greater Windham area |
| Fairfield University | Diana M Draper | ddraper@fairfield.edu | Statewide |
| Goodwin University | Bonnie Soltz-Knowlton | BKnowlton@goodwin.edu | East Hartford |
| Hartford Promise | Yahaira Escribano | yescribano@hartfordpromise.org | Hartford |

| Organization | Contact Name | Contact Email | Community(ies) Served |
|---|----------------------|--|---|
| Higher Edge | Katie Hallisey | katie@higheredge.org | New London, Willimantic, Windham |
| Higher Heights Youth Empowerment Programs, Inc. | Aliyah Brogdon | aliyah@higherheightsyouth.org | Greater New Haven, Fairfield County, Hartford |
| Middlesex Community College | Irene Martin | imartin@mxcc.edu | Middletown, Meriden, Region 13, Region 4, Portland, Wallingford |
| New Haven Promise | Jorgieliz Casanova | jorgieliz@newhavenpromise.org | Greater New Haven |
| Quinnipiac University | Vikki Hampton McNeil | victoria.mcneil@qu.edu | Hamden, North Haven |
| Southern Connecticut State University | Nilvio Perez | perezn18@southernct.edu | New Haven |
| Trinity College | Ashley Dutton | ashleydutton16@gmail.com | Hartford |
| University of Connecticut | Danyelle Rossetti | danyelle.rossetti@uconn.edu | Statewide |
| University of Bridgeport | Kristen Piscioneri | kpiscion@bridgeport.edu | Bridgeport |
| University of Hartford | Katherine Deacon | deacon@hartford.edu | Hartford, West Hartford, Bloomfield, Rocky Hill |
| University of New Haven | Corinne Merjave | cmerjave@newhaven.edu | New Haven, West Haven |
| University of Saint Joseph | Stacy Downing | sdowning@usj.edu | West Hartford, Bristol, Manchester, Hartford |
| Waterbury Bridge to Success | Akia Callum | communications@waterburybridgetosuccess.org | Waterbury |
| Western Connecticut State University | Melissa M. Stephens | stephensm@wcsu.edu | Danbury |
| Yale University | Claudia Merson | claudia.merson@yale.edu | New Haven |